GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3178
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
PROMOTION OF BIO-TECH MARKET
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote the bio-tech market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of assistance provided by the Government during each of the last three years for promotion of bio-tech in the country;

(d) the criteria for allocation of such assistance; and

(e) the system evolved to regulate the bio-tech protocol regimes in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India (GOI) has given enough attention to the innovative biotech sector with an impetus for the development and promotion by providing incentives like: rationalization of custom duty on specified machinery; 150 percent weighted deduction on in-house R&D expenditure; equity support to small and medium enterprises through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI); 100% foreign equity investments in all biotech sectors; fast track clearance route for FDI in biotech industry; incentives under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme; customs and excise duty exemption to Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) recognized Scientific and Industrial Research Organisations (SIROs). Government has also taken several steps for boosting exports. There are special incentives for units, which export 100% of their production.

(c) Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has been given the mandate for promotion of bio-tech in the country. The assistance provided by Department of Biotechnology during the last three years is Rs. 186 Crores, 221Crores and 263 Crores respectively.

There are few other departments like Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Environmental and Forests, which also provide assistance to biotech sector.

(d) The criteria for providing assistance for most of the schemes are on the merit of the investigators and infrastructure facilities available with the implementing agency. For setting up infrastructure facilities and centres of excellence, location is also given consideration so that these may be optimally utilized and cater to the maximum number of scientists.

(e) The Government of India has established a well-conceived regulatory framework for approval of biotech products with independent appraisal and approval bodies for compliance of different Acts and Rules to ensure the high levels of environmental safety including human and animal health. The expertise and authority for different components of the regulatory framework for biotech products are, however, with the different departments of the Government.